

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 DRC-01 /047 W

----- 118941

R 011300Z OCT 73

FM AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

INFO AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL IZMIR

SECSTATE WASHDC 4582

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJECT: BURSA AND THE ELECTIONS

SUMMARY: DURING RECENT VISIT TO BURSA CONGEN OFF DISCUSSED ELECTION PROBABILITIES WITH POLITICALLY INFORMED LOCAL FIGURES, INCLUDING GOVERNOR, JUSTICE PARTY LEADER AND LEADING NEWSPAPER LOCAL BUREAU CHIEF. ALTHOUGH ALL MADE ALLOWANCE FOR SURPRISE ELEMENTS IN OCT 14 ELECTIONS, CONSENSUS WAS JUSTICE PARTY WOULD RETAIN PRIMACY IN BURSA PROVINCE, ALTHOUGH PERHAPS WITH SMALLER MAJORITY THAN IN 1965 ELECTIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING VISIT TO BURSA SEPT 24-25, BURSA GOVERNOR MUSTAFA SEDAT TOLGA TOLD CONGEN OFF THAT BUSINESS AND WEALTHY FARM INTERESTS IN PROVINCE WOULD ENSURE THAT BURSA REMAINS JUSTICE PARTY (JP) STRONGHOLD. GOVERNOR EXPECTED JP TO GET SEVEN OF BURSA'S ELEVEN PARLIAMENTARY SEATS, AND DEMOCRATIC PARTY (DP) TO RETAIN SEAT IT GAINED WHEN JP DEPUTY AND FORMER MINISTER OF INDUSTRY MEHMET TURGUT JOINED DP. REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY WOULD PROBABLY RETAIN THE THREE SEATS WHICH IT ALREADY HAS. GOVERNOR WAS NOT SANGUINE, HOWEVER, ABOUT COUNTRY-WIDE OUTCOME OF GENERAL ELCTIONS. HE BELIEVES JP WILL NOT WIN A CLEAR MAJORITY AND WILL BE FORCED INTO COALI-

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TION WHICH WILL PERPETUATE POLITICAL INSTABILITY IN

TURKEY.

2. BURSA JUSTICE PARTY PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE MEMBER SEMIH ODMAN VIEWED LOCAL SITUATION OPTIMISTICALLY, SAYING THAT WITH LUCK JP COULD WIN TWO OF THREE SEATS NOW HELD BY RPP. SINCE RPP IN BURSA HAS BEEN STRONGLY PRO-INONU, VOTERS WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY VOTED FOR RPP OUT OF LOYALTY TO INONU MIGHT BE ATTRACTED TO JP. ODMAN SAID JP IS LESS WORRIED BY RPP THAN BY DP AND TO LESSER EXTENT BY NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NSP). MEHMET TURGUT IS ALMOST CERTAIN TO RETAIN HIS SEAT AS A DP DEPUTY. AT THE SAME TIME LATENT ADMIRATION FOR MENDERES' PARTY IN PROVINCE HAS BEEN STIMULATED BY ACTIVE DP CAMPAIGN, ESPECIALLY SPEECHES OF EX-PRESIDENT CELAL BAYAR AND PUBLICITY GIVEN TO MENDERES' SON AND DAUGHTER. TOGETHER THESE MIGHT COST THE JP TWO SEATS.

3. THE NSP IN BURSA AS IN OTHER PARTS OF TURKEY IS A POLITICAL UNKNOWN AND AS SUCH MUST BE FEARED. ODMAN DOUBTED THAT NSP PROPAGANDA WOULD AFFECT VILLAGER WHO HAS LITTLE FREE TIME AND OBJECTS TO RELIGIOUS CORECION, EVEN IF ISLAMIC. CITY WORKERS, HOWEVER, WHO HAVE MORE FREE TIME, GREATER OPPORTUNITY TO SEE SOCIAL DISPARITIES AND HAVE GREATER NEED FOR RELIGIOUS SOLACE MAY BE SUSCEPTIBLE TO NSP LINE. ON THE NATIONAL SCENE, ODMAN WAS RESERVED. DESPITE REPEATING THE JP'S HOPE OF WINNING 300 SEATS, HE NOTED THAT IF NO PARTY WINS A SOLID MAJORITY, TURKEY IS IN FOR MORE POLITICAL INSTABILITY. HE DID NOT LIKE TO CONTEMPLATE THIS POSSIBILITY.

4. BURSA HURRITYET BUREAU CHIEF EROL MURAL MORE PRECISE IN ELECTION CALCULATIONS. HE SAID JP WILL NOT WIN LESS THAN SIX SEATS, BUT WHETHER IT WINS MORE DEPENDS ON DP AND NSP. TURGUT IS CERTAIN TO WIN DP SEAT, AND RPP WOULD AGAIN ELECT THREE DEPUTIES FROM BURSA. REMAINING SEAT WOULD GO TO JP, DP OR NSP. MURAL SAID RPP RACE WAS COMPLICATED BY FACT ORIGINAL TOP THREE CANDIDATES ON LIST WERE ANTI-ECEVIT. ECEVIT THEREFORE PLACED CONTINGENT CHOICE HASAN ISIK AT TOP OF LIST, DISPLACING POPULAR QTE WORKER UNQTE CANDIDTATE WHO WAS THIRD ON LIST. REQCTION MAY LOSE RPP VOTES, UNLESS VOTERS

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UNDERSTAND HOW TO CAST PREFERENCE BALLOT. MURAL SAID NSP MAY WIN ONE SEAT, SINCE IT IS ACTIVELY CAMPAIGNING AND BURSA HAS MANY RELIGIOUSLY ORIENTED VOTERS. HE DID NOT CONSIDER IT A THREAT, HOWEVER, AND DOUBTED THAT THE PARTY WOULD SURVIVE LONG SINCE ITS POLITICAL BEHAVIOR SEEMED UNCONSITUTIONAL.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH BURSA IS NOT A POLITICAL WEATHER-

VANE FOR THE REST OF TURKEY, NEVERTHELESS IT IS INTEREST-
ING THAT EVEN IN A TRADITIONAL JUSTICE PARTY STRONGHOLD,
THE JP WILL HAVE TO FIGHT IF IT WANTS TO EGAIN THE
STRENGTH THAT IT HAD IN THE 1965 ELECTIONS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973ISTANB03250
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: ISTANBUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731060/aaaabsbh.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <24-Jan-2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BURSA AND THE ELECTIONS SUMMARY: DURING RECENT VISIT TO BURSA CONGEN OFF DISCUSSED
TAGS: PINT, TU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005